TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE TODAY

EXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Governor Abbott Appoints Five to Texas Juvenile Justice Board

Texas Governor Greg Abbott has appointed Pama Hencerling to the Texas Juvenile Justice Board for a term set to expire February 1, 2017 and appointed Edeska Barnes, Jr., Lisa Jarrett, Candy Noble and Wes Ritchey for terms set to expire February 1, 2021. The board is charged with developing and implementing rules to govern the department, executive director and staff, and to establish the mission and set goals for the department to emphasize keeping youth in home communities while balancing rehabilitative needs with public safety.

Pama Hencerling of Victoria is the chief juvenile probation officer of Victoria and Goliad Counties. She is past president of the Texas Institute on Children and Youth and a member of the Central Texas Chiefs Association, Texas Probation Association and the Juvenile Justice Associate of Texas. Hencerling received a Bachelor of Science from Sam Houston State University.

Edeska Barnes, Jr. of Jasper is the chief juvenile probation officer for the First Judicial District Juvenile Probation Department. He is on the board of directors for the Texas Probation Association, a member of Deep East Texas Council of Government and a facilitator for the New Chiefs Development Program for Correctional Management Institute of Texas at Sam Houston State University. Barnes received a Bachelor of Science from Lamar University.

Lisa Jarrett of San Antonio is Judge of the 436th District Court. She is a member of Friends of Communities in Schools, co-chair of the Community Justice Project and fellow of the San Antonio Bar Foundation and the Texas Bar Foundation. Jarrett received a Bachelor of Arts from The University of Texas at Austin and a Juris Doctor from the University of Houston Law Center.

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A Message From the Director



David Reilly

Happy new year to each of you. The 85th Legislative Session has begun and lawmakers have already begun meeting on a number of priority items. In addition to juvenile justice issues that are important to us all, a primary focus will be on the state's budget. Recent estimates by the Comptroller have revealed that lawmakers will have approximately \$104.87 billion of revenue available for state services during the next biennium, or about \$3 billion less than the previous biennium. We should see the introduced state-wide budget very soon and, while it is informative, it is only a starting Although the budget point. will be tight, I continue to be optimistic in the Legislature's support of TJID, our county probation partners and for our future. The process is long and we will not know the outcome for quite some time.

I am pleased to welcome new board members to TJJD's

leadership. At the same time, we will certainly feel the loss of four very special former members whose terms have expired - Iane King, Dr. Rene Olvera, Laura Parker and Calvin Stephens. These four have been a part of the TJJD board since the agency's creation in 2011. They served during a time of consolidation and transition and have provided guidance, oversight, passion and leadership. Their work has often been arduous and unrecognized by those outside the juvenile justice system. Through their efforts, TJD has implemented numerous improvements and has achieved a greater stability. On behalf of the agency's staff, please accept my sincere thanks for your service to TIID and the youth of our state.

Each January, TJJJD joins with the rest of our nation in celebrating National Mentoring Month. Mentors have a profound and

transformative role in the lives of each young person they assist. TJJD's mentors work with youth who are often very difficult to reach. This month, 125 youth are matched with mentors, approximately 7 percent of our total youth population. Since FY 2014, 815 youth have been matched with a mentor with 369 youth having a mentor match lasting 180 days or more. Youth with long-term mentor have matches significantly better outcomes than their peers without mentors, with lower recidivism rates and great academic achievement. TIID is especially grateful to all our mentors and we are seeking additional fund to help bolster our mentorship program. It is also rewarding to see that many of our county partners across the state, from Angelina to Cameron to Dallas to Williamson and many more, have mentor programs that enrich their youth and programs.



Governor Abbott Appoints Five To Texas Juvenile Justice Board (con't)

Candy Noble of Lucas previously served on the Collin County Child Protective Services Board. She volunteers as the co-chair the Alumni Committee on the Hardin-Simons University Board of Development. Noble received a Bachelor of Education from Hardin-Simons University.

Wes Ritchey of Dalhart is the county judge of Dallam County. He is a member of the Texas Association of Counties and the Panhandle County Judge & Commissioners Association and volunteers for the Dallam County 4-H and the Dalhart Area Child Care Center as Board President. Ritchey received a Bachelor of Arts from Texas Tech University.



TJJD Advisory Council's Standards Committee -Creation, Purpose, and Accomplishments

By Doug Vance, PhD Chair, TJJD Advisory Council

The TJJD Advisory Council has for a number of years maintained several standing committees charged with addressing a specific area of importance to the field of juvenile justice. These committees focus on standards of care, performance measures, mental health, probation funding, and regionalization. For this article I wish to provide a general overview of the Standards Committee.

The Standards Committee was formally created on May 1, 2012 at a regular meeting of the TJJD Advisory Council. At that time the Advisory Council deemed it a top priority to initiate a systematic review of certain administrative rules (standards of care) impacting juvenile probation departments. After establishing the committee,

Brazos County Chief Doug Vance was appointed Committee Chair and Cass County Chief Philip Hayes as Vice-Chair.

In addition to Advisory Council membership on the committee it was deemed prudent to solicit additional representation from juvenile justice professionals from across the state. As such, membership on the committee soon expanded to include representation from the following organizations and or entities:

- Juvenile Probation Regional Chiefs Associations
- Texas Juvenile Justice Department
- TJJD Advisory Council
- Texas Iuvenile Detention Association
- **Juvenile Justice Association of Texas**
- **Texas Probation Association**
- **Subject Matter Experts**

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TJJD Advisory Council's Standards Committee – Creation, Purpose, and Accomplishments (con't)

To ensure the best chance for success the Standards Committee implemented a very distinct and uniquely strategic method of operation as outlined below:

- Standards Committee Receives an Assignment
- Chair Secures Committee Membership from Across the State
- Project Parameters are Established
- Committee Develops a Plan of Action
 - Goals
 - Guiding Principles
 - Time-Lines
 - Methodology
 - Independent Research
 - Homework Assignments
- Committee Meetings Objectives:
 - Create Atmosphere that Encourages Input & Debate
 - Provide for a Thorough Vetting Process
 - Keep Accurate Meeting Drafts
 - Solicit On-Going Feedback
 - Stay-on-Task
- Seek TJJD Board Approval
- Recommend an Effective Date
- Provide State-Wide Training

Since 2012 the Standards Committee has been hard at work reviewing and revising multiple chapters of the Texas Administrative Code. Following is a list of projects completed by the Standards Committee.

- 2012 Elimination of the TAC 343 Compliance Resource Manual
- 2012 Creation of the TAC 343 Addendum
- 2012 Creation of Specific TJJD Auditing Procedures
- 2012 Revision of TAC 343 Mental Health Rules
- 2013 Creation of TAC 355 Standards for Non-Secure Facilities
- 2014 Comprehensive Revision of TAC 343 Secure Pre & Post-Adjudication Facilities
- 2014 Major Revision to How Seclusion is Administered in Texas Juvenile Detention.

- 2015 Revision of TAC 341 with Special Emphasis on Case Management.
- 2016 Revision of TAC 344 Employment, Certification, & Training.

Each of these projects was very difficult and required extensive independent research as well as multiple meetings filled with debate and healthy discussion before completion was secured. If not for the dedication of a small group of juvenile justice professionals, these projects would have been impossible to undertake or complete.

The following list of individuals participated in one or more standards committee projects, either as a committee member, or as a subject matter expert. Their unselfish efforts will for many years to come provide the framework for the rules of engagement in juvenile probation as well as specify the modus operandi for how juvenile probation should operate. Finally, their work provides a seminal benchmark of excellence, for posterity's sake, and will forever impact the scope, direction, and course of the Texas Juvenile Probation System.

Kristy Almager, Denise Askea, Josh Bauremiester, Linda Brooke, Darryl Beatty, Ed Cockrell, Jamie Coronado, Nekandra Coulter, Gerald Crain, Karol Davidson, Terri Dollar, Dr. Nicole Dorsey PhD, Kevin Dubose, Neil Edins, Lupita Fuentes, Dr. Jennifer Farnum, EdD. Scott Friedman, Richard Garza, Barry Gilbert, Carols Gonzales, Bruce Gusler, Kavita Gupta, Forrest Hanna, Darryl Harrison, Philip Hayes, Tom Hough, Bryan Jones, Susan Humphrey, Deborah James, Aris Johnson, Upendra Katrangadda, Monica Kelly, Ashley Kintzer, Diane Laffoon, David Lenington, Kathryn Lewis, Ron Lewis, Vicki Line, Sal Lopez, Virginia Martinez, Reba Moore, Jesse Murillo, Diana Norris, Susan Orendac, Dr. Delbert Price PhD, Leah Probst. Dr. Diana Quintana PhD, Steve Roman, Bryant Sears, Lou Serrano, Kaci Singer, James Smith, Chet Thomas, Laura Torres, Dr. Doug Vance PhD, Jim Vines, James Williams, Ross Worley.

Volunteers Honored During National Mentoring Month

January is NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH and TJJD would like to express deep appreciation to each Mentor! Throughout the month, the agency has shared a variety of stories, training/webinar invitations, and video links that underscore the critical role mentors play in the lives of TJJD youth. If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming a TJJD mentor, please contact Tammy Holland at 512-490-7090.



Scott Bolsins: The Story of a Reluctant Mentor

I have always had a place in my heart for youth and have served as a volunteer coach on several sports teams. When I was approached by the Texas Iuvenile Iustice Department about working with a 10-yearold boy who was serving a possible 15-year incarceration, I would like to say I jumped at the chance: however, I hesitated because I was anxious about working with a child who was incarcerated. I tried to reason away that I would have little impact on someone who had committed an offense that

resulted in such a lengthy sentence. Nothing could have been further than the truth.

My initial meeting was not what I had anticipated. I was introduced to a child who was polite, however shy. He was no different from any other boy I had coached, with the exception that he desperately needed someone to care about him. We played games and he cheated several times to ensure himself that I would win. When I asked him why, he said he wanted to make sure I came back. It broke my heart.

After a few months I learned that he was making less than average grades and it was obvious that he had no concept of a life outside of the justice system. We worked on his confidence and I started to get him to dream again of what his life would look like if he could change things. His grades improved to an A-average as he set goals to graduate, not only from high school, but to earn a college degree. Within a year, the introverted child who was

unable to look me in the eye or complete a sentence was laughing, talking nonstop and planning to earn a degree as a graphic artist. He picked up the passion for reading, and was reading books that were several grade levels above his age.

I have worked with him for three years and I am proud of the young man that he has become. He is now living with a foster family in my hometown and is like any other awkward teenage boy you would see at the mall or playing with friends. His eyes are now filled with hope instead of the undeniable pain I saw during our first visit.

Looking back, my initial thought was that I had very little to offer and I have come to realize that I had everything he needed. I didn't have to have profound advice or even all the right answers; all he needed was a little of my time and to know that someone cared. It can make a difference that is impossible to measure, as this experience has changed us both.

Mart Complex Adds Violent Offender Program

When the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support program came to the Mart campus and it was decided the Violent Offender Program would be part of the first wave PBIS dorm, the treatment team was prepared. This program is based on the highly successful and acclaimed Capital and Serious Violent Offender Program at Giddings, and

incorporates much of the proven program into a campus-based treatment program for youth.

The dorm was extremely clean and organized, positive posters were everywhere, groups were taking place and program was followed to the letter. Incentives for good behavior motivated youth to perform and have a positive outlook towards the future. The program is not easy and changing internal culture and personal values is a difficult accomplishment but, with the help of the team, the dorm managed to be the star of Mart Complex and a model dorm.

The dedicated professionals managing the program include front line ICOs, ICO Supervisor Monica Coward, Case manager Alberta Riptoe, Dorm Supervisor Raquel Hightower and Program Supervisor Ana Matei. This team works around the clock to maintain improve the and program, the culture, and the untapped potential of the treatment. Now, since PBIS is officially part of the VOP, the entire team is thriving to be better, more specialized, have organized training for staff, have better motivation and incentive for good behavior and prepare youths to break the negative boundaries and become even stronger.



The VOP dorm mural, which was created by all the VOP youth participants.

Fort Worth Parole Youth and Families Receive Holiday Baskets

The Fort Worth Resource Council for Youth (FWRCY), the Salvation Army and One Heart Project helped make Christmas brighter for parole youth and their families in the Northern District of Tarrant County and Fort Worth.

Thanks to their generosity, Fort Worth Parole Officers delivered Christmas baskets to 15 families and gave 35 youth fan and goody bags. Fort Worth Parole Staff Vickie Griffin was instrumental in making sure the baskets were well stocked.

Parole Officers Natasha Johnson, Billy Branch and Jeffrey Manuel, along with their supervisor Diana

Goodwin and Vickie Griffin, made home visits that included dropping off a basket that contained a ham, vegetables, cake mix and icing, instant mashed potatoes and more food for the holiday meal.

Parole youth picked up their bags when they saw their Parole Officer – either at the office or at home, work or school. The youth fan and goody bags contained socks, gloves, a cap, body wash, shampoo snacks and other goodies.

The families and youth were very appreciative and thankful.

Tree of Angels Ceremony



TJJD's Melissa Headrick welcomed hundreds of participants to the annual Tree of Angels ceremony in Austin on December 6, 2016. The service at Central Christian Church offered a poignant way to honor loved ones lost to violent crime. Representatives from law enforcement, the Governor's Office, county commissioners, TDJC and TJJD provide assistance to People Against Violent Crime and the Travis County Sheriff's Office, who host the event each year.

TJJD takes special pride knowing that the Tree of Angels ceremony started through the creativity of our own Kristy Almager's mother, Verna Lee Carr, who serves as Executive Director of People Against Violent Crime. Since Ms. Carr held the first event in 1991, it has grown into an annual ritual throughout much of Texas, nationally and internationally.

Giddings State School Family Worship Event

This past October, 136 members of Giddings youth's families had the amazing opportunity to worship together with their loved ones at the first ever Family Worship Day Event held on the Giddings campus.

The event featured Christian rap artist Ivan Nacianceno, creator of Christ Like Music and Ministries out of Madisonville, Texas. Ivan shares his faith through captivating lyrics matched with undeniably catchy beats that youth, family members, and staff all enjoyed. Ivan pairs his musical gift with the inspirational message of his life story, which is easily relatable to our students.

Giddings State School staff Heather Brock (Family Liaison) Thomas Merchant (Chaplain) did an incredible job of providing this opportunity to youth and their loved ones. The event was broken into two sessions to accommodate the overwhelming response from families. Youth were able to sit and worship with their parents, siblings, and other family members and some youth led prayers and devotionals during the service. Students whose families were unable to attend were provided the opportunity to attend themselves.

The response from both students and their families was exceptionally moving and evidenced the important impact these programs can and do have on the lives we strive to change.

"The kids have responded in great numbers," said Chaplain Merchant. "We will have to do group class and then baptism for all those that have responded."

Students and staff alike are looking forward to the next worship event and other exciting happenings on campus.





Swine Project Helps Nudge Youth In the Right Direction

Reprinted from the December 26, 2016 High Plains Journal.

By Jennifer M. Latzke

If you talk to J.D. Ragland very long, you'll quickly realize that in his eyes, every "kiddo" has potential for great things.

All they need is a nudge in the right direction.

That nudge is the basis of the Randall County Dream Team Program in Canyon, Texas. This program takes select at-risk youth in seventh and eighth grades and uses the swine 4-H project to teach them skills and build confidence. All of it is in the hope of intervening at a critical crossroad in their development and pointing them down the path away from the juvenile justice system.

The Dream Team was an idea that came about because the Randall County judge and the County Commissioners' Court were frankly tired of seeing at-risk youth in the juvenile justice system. Not only does it cost the county upward of \$35,000 per youth per year to house and feed juvenile offenders, but there's also a tremendous personal cost to the atrisk youth who feel like their only choices are bad decisions.

"Man, if we could just give these kids who were getting into trouble some sort of incentive, we could save the taxpayers a lot of money and maybe more important, keep the kids out of juvenile detention center and try to have a positive impact on these kiddos and keep them from getting into the trenches again," Ragland explained.

So, back in 2009, the Commissioners' Court approached the Extension staff, including Ragland, with the

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challenge of starting a 4-H club program for these at-risk youth. The pieces came together slowly, first with a committee developed of middle school principals and counselors along with the two Randall County justices of the peace and the AgriLife Extension staff. Ragland was the one who suggested the swine project. But they needed a central location to house the project pigs and one that was easy enough for Dream Team families to drive to twice a day, seven days a week to do chores and train their pigs.



Dream Team participants drive their pigs to the outdoor show pen at the Digger Howard 4H Livestock Barn.

The committee found funding to build the Digger Howard 4-H Livestock Barn. The barn is the primary host site for the Dream Teamers, Ragland said, but it's also a place where traditional 4-H members and their families can house their animals as well.

"In the north end of Randall County it's a more urban setting, and many folks live in town and don't have facilities for livestock," Ragland explained.

In 2011, they had a facility, they had a project idea, they had changed from a committee to a more permanent

board structure, and they had the rules lined out for how the Dream Team would be implemented. Now they just needed participants.

And for that they turned to their principal and counselor contacts in area schools. These contacts identify at-risk youth according to official criteria as potential candidates for the program, then explain the Dream Team to the youth. Then the board interviews the applicants and their parents or legal guardians separately to determine whether they are ideal matches for the program.

Ragland explained that the board interviews gauge their intent to participate. Right now the program is limited to nine youth participants at a time, with hope of expanding as the Dream Team concept grows and funding is found. But that means the board has to make sure each participant is ideal to be helped by the opportunity.

Dream Teamers, Ragland explained, have to follow the rules to participate. For example, they must commit to feeding their pigs twice a day, with parents or legal guardians committing to driving the youth to the barn to do chores. They have to keep their grades up in order to show their pigs at the Randall County Fair. And, at the end of the project, the pigs have to be sold.

"Most of these kids have never been challenged with responsibility," Ragland explained. "So we tell them we expect them to put in the work. This takes a lot of time and effort and dedication." That's the whole point, really. It challenges them to keep their grades up in order to show their pig. They learn to care for an animal, with real-world applications of their science and math classes in the barn.

Swine Project Helps Nudge Youth In the Right Direction (con't)

And if they're busy working with a pig project and putting in all this time and effort, they'll think twice about the destructive decisions that come their way.

The Dream Team program provides everything for the members, at no cost to them or their families, Ragland explained, which is another reason why each class of Dream Teamers is set at nine. Ragland finds and purchases the project pigs for the Dream Teamers just like he does for traditional 4-H members who ask him. All of the feed, veterinary care as well as housing and their 4-H membership fee are covered for the Dream Team members too. Funding comes from private sources and in part from the sale of the pigs after the county fair.

"The ultimate goal is that we hope that the kiddo's pig is quality enough to make the premium sale at our county show," Ragland said. "It doesn't always happen because our county show rules say only the top 75 percent of each class is eligible for the premium sale." If a Dream Teamer's pig doesn't happen to make the sale, there is a group of angel supporters in the county who will add on dollars to that youngster's pig, he explained. It's not a lot, but it is a small premium for the kids above market price.

That matters because if the Dream Team participant's pig brings a gross amount of \$500 or more, then the money is divided into a 10-10-80 split, Ragland said.

"So, whatever the gross dollars are for that kiddo, we give them 10 percent of that right up front because we feel like they need some immediate reward for their effort," Ragland said. "Then 10 percent goes back into the Dream Team program to support future participants. Then

the remaining 80 percent goes into an individual scholarship fund for that particular kiddo that they don't receive until they graduate high school. It's an incentive for this group because these at-risk kids tend to have high drop-out rates. We want to keep them in school until they graduate at least."

Since 2011 the Dream Team has nudged 31 of Ragland's "kiddos" toward a better path. For the youth and their families, the Dream Team is an opportunity to come together as a family through the project work.

"I thought it would be fun," said Brooke Carrithers, one of the Dream Team participants who came out to the barn to speak on behalf of the program. "I love animals, and my mom showed pigs when she was in 4-H."

Brooke's mom, Charlyn Carrithers, said she's seen the blossoming of her daughter's confidence through the program.

"She's doing so awesome, I'm so proud of her," Charlyn said. "We get up at 5:30 a.m. to feed, then she's off to school, then we come back out here around 4:30 p.m. and we're here until 6 or 7:30 p.m. It's just me and her, so it's a real blessing to have this." And the program works some magic on the parents as well. Charlyn uses her past showing knowledge to help the other kids when they need it. She also sees her and her daughter becoming closer.

"It's a blessing to these kids to have one chance to do this," she said. "At least the kids have a chance to see how to raise an animal, get that responsibility and that applies beyond that to other areas."

Kent David, father of Dream Teamer Claire David, echoed those sentiments.

"This is the biggest commitment she's ever done," he said. And the Dream Team project has inspired Claire to get further involved in other 4-H project work. It challenges her and that's good for her, he added.

Ragland said the benefits even transfer over into the traditional 4-H members who house their pigs out at the same barn. They learn not every kid in every family has the same opportunities, and some find their own leadership lessons in helping the Dream Teamers with their project learning.

There was no template for the Dream Team committee to follow when they developed the program, Ragland said.

"You have to surround yourself with a group of people passionate about the idea," he said. "We had so many committee meetings trying to develop the program, our bylaws and guidelines. Then we had to become a 501(c)(3) for fundraising. The best advice I would give is to have a goal, then surround yourself with supporters who are passionate about the same idea you have." Without the Randall County Commissioners and the court, a lot of the things we have in place today wouldn't be possible, he added. They raised the funding for the facility and are some of the biggest, most vocal cheerleaders of the Dream Team in the county.

"Do we think we can save them all?" Ragland asked. "No. We know that going in. But if we just save a few, then the program, the funding, the time, the effort, the support money is all worth it if we can keep them out of trouble."

It's a nudge in the right direction for kiddos who need it.



SPOTLIGHT

Lisa Tomlinson

Director of Juvenile Services/Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

Johnson and Somervell Counties

What led you to your career in juvenile justice?

I would say God did. As a child my father was an attorney, and a district attorney for part of my life. I enjoyed being in the courtroom with him and talking to him about cases. I knew I wanted to be in the courtroom in some form. I was originally hoping to go to law school, but was a single mom at the time. I continued my CJ course work and when I took my first juvenile justice class at University of Texas in El Paso, I was hooked. I knew then that I wanted to work with kids.

What types of facilities do you operate?

I do not currently operate any facility. However in the past, I operated the Juvenile Detention Facility in Grayson County. Currently in Johnson County we do not have our own facility and have to contract for beds.

What programs do you feel have proven most successful?

I really like the Youth Advocate Program. We have contracted with them for several years now and I do feel our kids get a lot from the mentors assigned to them. I also like a meeting that started years ago with CPS and Adult Probation. We meet monthly to discuss the many cases we have in common. It has built positive relationships with the

different agencies and ultimately helped the families and kids.

What do you see as the biggest challenges for juvenile justice in Texas?

Being soaked up into a "TYC" minded system. What I mean by that is when the agencies consolidated, TJPC or probation was supposed to be at the forefront. It seems every year as the agency continues that probation is being pushed further and further back and putting more and more on the counties. A term emerged in the last legislative session of "basic probation" and I wanted a definition of what that meant. That is the most difficult thing to do with the size of counties, the services offered or not offered. I never want to be offering "basic" anything to kids who need more.

Are there any changes that you are considering in your county?

Well, not now with retirement, but I hope and pray that services to youth at the local level will be priority to whoever takes my place.

What do you want others to know about your department?

I have the best staff in the world!! They care, period! They care about kids and families that no one else does. They want the best for each child and family and they want each child to be successful. We are fairly

small with only about 20 people total, but we are MIGHTY! We also do something that I am especially proud of - we pray for each other, families, kids, or anyone else at each staff meeting.

How will you spend your time once you retire?

Well, not exactly sure yet. Going to take a little down time first to reflect. Then I will attempt selling real estate. I got my license earlier this year and wanted to try it. Now I will have that opportunity.

What has been the best part of your job?

My Juvenile Board, my staff and seeing even the small successes in the kids we serve.

What advice would you give to a young new juvenile justice professional?

Don't expect big money, and only expect small rewards. Hang onto those small rewards, they will keep you on track. Show respect to everyone you meet. Don't judge just work with them. Find the child inside the kid sitting in front of you – don't just look at the offense – they deserve more than that. Remember what it was like to be a child yourself. If you don't remember, just ask your parents – they are more than willing to share.

Music!!!! A Universal Language

The Lubbock County Juvenile Justice Center has partnered with the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra to present "CHAMBER FOR THE CHALLENGED." The program is made possible by a 2016-2017 grant funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, executed by the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra (LSO) Education Program and implemented at the Lubbock County Juvenile Justice Center (LCJJC).

The partnership enables the LSO to reach out to incarcerated and marginalized youth in the Lubbock community through a program of chamber ensemble performances developed especially for them. "Music can transform and inspire the lives of those it touches in an intimate

"The youths in this facility are removed from traditional populations of the same age and education level, so bringing this outreach directly to them is essential" said Carter. These concerts have the potential to increase hope and inspire positive change, helping youths

various individual instruments assembled into a group, to mirror social structures; that each instrument contributes to a harmonious sound illustrates how individuals form our larger society. Demonstration of these concepts forms associations between the performances and



concert setting" said William Carter, Director of the LCJJC, "but challenged South Plains youths in these types of environments can only experience this power if the LSO can bring the music to them."

Utilizing multiple chamber ensembles that vary in size and instrumentation, the LSO chamber ensembles offer one presentation per month from September, 2016 through May, 2017 at the Lubbock County Juvenile Justice Center (LCJJC).

to begin to envision a brighter future through progressively motivating messages. The presentation content is entertaining, instructive, and inspiring.

The juveniles participate in an interactive demonstration utilizing chamber music to illustrate rehabilitative concepts such as productive participation in social groups (e.g. each individual instrument becomes an integral part of the ensemble). Programmatic material utilize the concept of an ensemble itself,

types of social and emotional rehabilitation, since all members of the audience have experienced some sort of societal exclusion and isolation.

"As a former musician I have enjoyed watching the juveniles interact with the ensembles both individually and as a group" said Carter. "During the Q&A periods the juveniles are allowed to ask questions and provide feedback such as how the music affects their current moods and emotions."

Schaeffer House Family Day

On December 10, 2016, Schaeffer House held its annual Christmas event. The event was sponsored by the Community Resource Council (CRC). Several special guests attended and spoke to the youth and families. The CRC provided a Christmas meal for all that were in attendance. The youth received gifts and sang Christmas carols. Overall it was a good day for the youth, families, volunteers and staff.



Staff and volunteers stand ready to serve dinner to Schaeffer House youth and their families on Family Day.

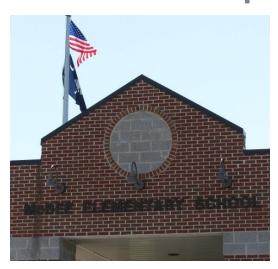


Youth and families heard and visited with special guests during this holiday celebration.

Bikers For Christ volunteers work closely with youth at Evins Regional Juvenile Center during a Christian Concert in October 2016. More than 50 youth were able to attend and enjoy great Christian music, guest speakers and a Chick Fil A meal. The concert is sponsored twice a year by "We Are One in Spirit" Ministries out of Edinburg, Texas.



Central Office Employees Serving as Mentors



TJJD volunteers are mentoring six K-5 elementary students at McBee Elementary, located about one mile east of Central Office on Braker Lane in Austin. Two more TJJD mentors will be connected once parent permission slips have been returned. Two additional TJJD employees are signed up for mentor training.

The response has been highly gratifying to McBee leadership, especially since the school had no active mentors to work with students previously. The elementary school has achieved distinction designations from the Texas Education Agency, and works with youth facing significant challenges. More than 95 percent of the student body is economically disadvantaged and nearly 75 percent are English language learners. Mentors commit to work with a youth for an academic year, but have the option of continuing in a mentorship role with a youth for future years.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Gives Ties to McFadden Youth

The Denton County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. conducted an EMBODI, (Empowering Males to Build Opportunities for Developing Independence) program at McFadden Ranch on Saturday, Oct. 22, 2016.

Eight women from DST, and three men, representing Omega Psi Phi, Phi Beta Sigma, and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternities, presented a powerful program that impacted McFadden Ranch's more than 50 youth in a big way.

First Vice President Robbin Robinson, Shade Lester and Kalilah Coulter spearheaded the event which is part of the Sorority's outreach and mission. Their program emphasized the importance of being successful in life, having good self-esteem, getting the right education for you and having a positive and professional presentation.

Representing different professions, everyone shared their stories and experiences with college, careers and life with the youth. They led group discussions and allowed the youth to share their view points as well, concluding with a tie tying demonstration with each youth getting to keep their tie.

Alex Coulter led the LIFE group and shared how his decision to NOT take a gun to a party saved his life and his future; Courtney Thompson and Tiffany Scott demonstrated the value and importance of getting an EDUCATION by sharing and comparing salaries and careers; Leslie Ekpe and Robbin Robinson

explained SELF ESTEEM and how it impacts decision making; and everyone demonstrated how to tie a tie.

In closing, many youth expressed appreciation and thanks, saying that they learned a lot.

from how important it is to feel good about yourself and keep a positive attitude, to getting more than a high school diploma if you want to have certain things and how emotions – such as fear, embarrassment and anger impact decision making but they especially enjoyed learning how to tie a tie.



Sorority and fraternity members assist McFadden Ranch youth with learning how to tie their ties.



Members of the Denton County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the Omega Psi Phi, Phi Beta Sigma, and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternities visited with youth from McFadden Ranch conducted an empowerment meeting with McFadden Ranch youth.

State Employee Charitable Campaign Results



A total of 245 TJJD employees from across the agency donated \$49,409.44 during the 2016 State Employee Charitable Campaign. There are many organizations that are so appreciative of the help that these contributions provide. Thanks to each person who contributed in any form or fashion. Every dollar and hour that is donated is a gift that is priceless!!

Cottrell House Giving with Purpose



Ornaments designed for children at Scottish Rites Hospital by Cottrell House youth

Giving to others to create smiles was the purpose of youth at Cottrell House making Christmas ornaments to donate to the children at Scottish Rite Hospital. The youth at Cottrell House wanted to make Christmas special for young children that were unable to spend Christmas at home. Volunteer Shellita Garrett was excited to work with youth to help them design special Christmas ornaments to put smiles on the faces of children. When other volunteers heard about the youth plans of donating ornaments, they were excited to assist. Shellita supplied paints, glitter, and clear Christmas ornaments. The youth supplied the creativity and designs for each ornament. Once all the ornaments were completed, the Iron Guardians took the ornaments to the Scottish Rite Hospital so that the children could smile. Cottrell House youth did more than just create ornaments for children; they learned that working together for a greater good is powerful. They had so much fun that they wanted to create more exciting things. Shellita came back a second time to allow youth to use their creativity to create whatever they felt. The youth created bird houses using popsicle sticks.

Volunteer D'Juan McDuffie was amazed that Cottrell youth wanted to give smiles to children that could not spend Christmas at home. This amazed him because youth at Cottrell were also not able to spend Christmas at home, but yet they wanted to give smiles to someone else. D'Juan wanted to help the vouth provide a gift for their family members. He wanted the gift to be handmade by the youth so that the gift would truly have meaning. He engaged vouth in making homemade hand scrubs using salt, and essential oils. Youth were excited, and made several different



The Christmas gifts that DYRAC provided as individual gifts as well as house gifts

scented hand scrubs for their family members. The youth packaged the hand scrubs with bows to prepare them for their family members.

The Dallas Youth Resource & Advisory Council (DYRAC) knew that youth could not be home. The members of DYRAC gave donations of food, clothing, and hygiene products to youth Cottrell House. They also purchased all new board games for the entire house. DYRAC members served nachos and dessert as well as watched Christmas movies with the youth. They even provided toys for youth

that have small children of their own so that they could give the toys as gifts.

All Gods People provided a home cooked Christmas meal for vouth and their family members. Everyone enjoyed turkey, hams, green beans, potatoes, dressing, dessert and much more. Volunteers enjoyed their time with youth and showed them that Christmas is about caring for others. Volunteer Palmer Reed was known for spending time with youth. He mentored many youth, gave many donations, taught many bible study sessions with vouth and participated in countless celebrations with youth at Cottrell House. Palmer passed away this vear. Palmer was celebrated during the Christmas dinner for all his good works. He was a role model for every youth that he came in contact with. A plaque will hang at Cottrell House honoring Palmer Reed.

Christmas is more than receiving gifts. It is about placing smiles on the face of others, giving from the heart, and celebrating the life of those who are special to each of us. Youth at Cottrell House experienced all of this and more because of volunteers.



Youth created this bird house using popsicle sticks

TJJD Campuses Celebrate PBIS Incentive Day

Every six weeks, all TJJD education departments participate in **Positive** Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) incentive program, which addresses the youth's individual ability to reach a set of identified expectations and behavior goals. This helps facilitate and shape behavior while building and reinforcing coping skills through targeted skill development. Overall, this offers the students directed practice, staff opportunity for modeling of pro-social skills, and positive reinforcement of targeted progress. The goal is to help youth reduce negative behavior while developing corresponding positive behaviors to build longterm, internalized changes in behavior. Below is a description of the PBIS Incentive Day held agency-wide on September 16, 2016.



Gainesville: PBIS is going strong at the Gainesville State School. The last incentive was the largest yet with 68 students participating. The teachers came in early and prepared a home cooked breakfast for the students that included

scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy, sausage, waffles and fresh fruit. They enjoyed games, having free time in the gymnasium, playing pool, cards, dominoes and ping pong. The free day from school provided an opportunity for the students to have fellowship with their teachers and coaches without the pressure of school work. All the staff worked very hard to make this a meaningful experience and a great day for the students and PBIS...GO TORNADOES!!! James Bateman: PBIS Coach



McLennan II/MRTC: A total of 78 students participated in sports activities

and a presentation by Ahmad Washington, founder Movement Up, an organization mentor help societal needs of at-risk children. Mr. Washington performed rap lyrics and incorporated his experiences as a youth. He related personal experiences such as growing up in an impoverished area of Houston that was surrounded by anger, abuse, drug abuse, and illegal drug distribution. Against all odds and misfortune, he rose to flourish in a successful athletic career while continuously striving to become a productive, contributing citizen. Students were overcome with emotion and moved to speak of their own

trials in life. Mr. Washington wrote a formula on the board and suggested to the students that the sum of life is predicated on experiences, plus choices. *Travis Boyd and Larrye Weaver: PBIS Coaches*



Giddings:
Lone Star
High School
South East
celebrated
its first PBIS
incentive
day of
the new

school year. Because youth met behavior and academic goals, vouth were able to watch "Batman versus Superman" in the chapel and partook in eating donuts, kolaches and drinking orange juice. Due to the amazing participation from the youth, this incentive day goes down in the books as one of the largest and most memorable PBIS Incentive Days with a final count of 92 youth. The number of participants shows an increase in the number of youth taking responsibility for their behavior. The comradery shown between staff and youth was amazing and reinforced how PBIS is becoming part of campus culture. The staff at LSHS SE is dedicated to making sure each youth is afforded equal opportunities to do the right thing and make the right choices. Tatrina Bailey: PBIS Coach

Continued on page 16

TJJD Campuses Celebrate PBIS Incentive Day (con't)



Ron Jackson had 42 students qualify for the first six weeks PBIS Incentive Day. All groups participated in a ropes course trolley activity involving long

boards with ropes connected to them. The object was for the groups to learn to work as a team and to afford the opportunities for leaders to emerge. All were able to practice and demonstrate leadership skills. Throughout the morning, each group spent time practicing with their groups. A leader from each group guided group members to step in a rhythmic, unison manner, first with their right foot followed by the left foot. At the end of the day, all the groups came together for a race across the court vard. Everyone got involved including students, teachers, principals, JCO's and even Ron Jackson Superintendent joined in the fun! The Challenge & Courage group won the race. The whole distance of the race was about 20 yards. Kind-hearted teachers agreed to race the kids in the final race. Students also enjoyed watching an approved movie, eating popcorn, snacks, drinking soda, and playing basketball. *Tony Roberts: PBIS Coach*

Evins had an excellent PBIS Incentive Day! Prior to the actual day, the Dodgeball teams were eager to show their talents and

competitiveness on the gym floor. Three teachers and staff were selected to play and guide the youth as Coaches on each team. Staff had drafted, met, and mentally prepared the youths to unite as a team. Each team was united as one group, one team, and one family. All students met with the coaches in the early morning to prep them for the game. Officials gathered the youth to emphasize sportsmanship, teamwork, and importantly to have fun! Officials had to declare the yellow team winners to break a tie!! Both teams were taught how important it was to shake hands and congratulate each other on their hard work and dedication throughout the games. Both teams gathered for lunch and sat together to enjoy pizza and an ice cream cone. Manny Ortiz: PBIS Coach



Potter's House Fort Worth and Willoughby House Youth – a True Partnership

On Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016 Willoughby House youth attended a Breakfast with the Brother's from the Potter's House, Fort Worth. TX.

The Deacons and youth shared a breakfast but the men shared wisdom as well.

They encouraged the youth to consider entrepreneurship when they think about their future.

Several Deacons spoke from personal experience, about how they started and continue to maintain specific businesses

- ranging from construction and water removal/janitorial services to BBQ restaurants and barbershops.

One Deacon discussed being a published author and encouraged the youth to write their own story.

In addition, several discussed how they dealt with peer pressure and learned to NOT follow the crowd but think for themselves.

But this wasn't their first meeting. These men also provided Thanksgiving dinner for the youth as well. The Potter's House Fort Worth, under the leadership of Pastor Patrick Winfield has become instrumental in helping the youth succeed. The Deacons plan a monthly meeting at the facility where they'll talk with the youth and provide inspiration and encouragement. The Iron Men, another outreach ministry plans to being mentoring the youth as well.

Potter's House Fort Worth and Willoughby House – houses united to help youth succeed.

Tamayo House Youth Share Their Stories



Four Tamayo House youth share their personal stories at a local middle school.

Tamayo House celebrated Red Ribbon week in November by celebrating the hashtag #YOLO! "You only live once, live it drug free."

Each day, the youth where reminded about being drug free with ribbons, bookmarks and a #YOLO party at the end of the week. During the week, four boys from Tamayo House volunteered to share their personal stories at two middle schools in the community. They reached over 300 students with their message of choosing a drug-free life. Several of boys commented they were nervous speaking to so many people but in the end hoped they made a difference in someone's life.

Dallas District Office Family Holiday

Family members and youths come into the parole office every day. They all have expectations to meet to help them become successful. Every family is different and they all have different personal needs. There are some families and youths that struggle from day to day to have basic personal needs such as food and clothing. The parole officers are charged with monitoring youths and providing guidance so that youths are successful. Sometimes this is a difficult task for youth because they are struggling with basic needs.

Because of this struggle, volunteers have created a

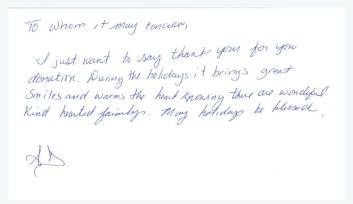
food and clothing pantry at the Dallas District Office that provides help for these youths families. During holidays 12 families needed assistance with food during Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Volunteers from Transforming Lives Ministry, Abundance Spiritual Ministry, and Free On the Inside Ministries provided 17 turkeys and a large amount of food including eggs, fresh potatoes, and butter to families so that they could make dinner during the holidays. Some families received two turkevs as well as two baskets. The families were extremely grateful to receive the donations. The smiles on

the faces of the families were enough for volunteers to know that more needed to be done.

Volunteer Lindsev Cowell wanted to replenish food pantry and also give food to families during the Holidays. recruited people from her job to donate canned and boxed foods. The foods that were donated were given to several families to assist not only with the holidays but after the holidays were over. Lindsey helped refill the pantry so that families can continue to have food after the holidays are over. None this would have been possible without the kind hearts of volunteers.



Staff and volunteers stand ready to serve dinner to Schaeffer House youth and their families on Family Day.



Youth and families heard and visited with special guests during this holiday celebration.

Ayres House Christmas

Ayres House and Volunteer Council for TX Youth in San Antonio received a special gift on the eve of its annual Christmas dinner for the youth and staff. New volunteer Karen Grady, inspired from her past six months of volunteering at the halfway house, shared her experience with her friends. These goodhearted friends in turn provided two donations from Stone Oak Rotary and Cheryl Armstrong. The donations, valued at \$1,000, helped provide Christmas gifts for youth at Ayres house.



Volunteer Karen Grady poses with Santa prior to the Ayres House Christmas dinner.



Volunteer Johnny Cuellar helps serve Ayres House youth and staff at the Christmas dinner.

House Resolution Honors Juvenile Justice Professionals

A resolution was filed in the Texas House of Representatives in December designating January 24, 2017, as Juvenile Justice Professional Day in Texas. HR 53, filed by Representative James White of District 19 in East Texas, recognizes the valuable and often difficult work performed daily by more than 10,000 juvenile justice professionals at the county and state level throughout Texas.

There are more than 8,200 certified juvenile probation and supervision officers working at the county level in Texas, "work(ing) tirelessly and courageously to help rehabilitate young people,

handling 100 percent of the referrals received into the juvenile justice system each year and providing ongoing



services at the local level to 95 percent of those referrals." At the state level, more than 2,000 juvenile corrections officers, caseworkers, teachers, parole

officers, medical and special service providers provide supervision and support to nearly 1,700 youth each year.

As noted in HR 53, "Through their hard work and expertise, juvenile justice professionals make a positive difference in the lives of at-risk youth and help maintain the security of the citizens of Texas, and their contributions are indeed deserving of recognition."

Juvenile Justice Professional Day, January 24, 2017, recognizes the efforts of these individuals and the positive difference they make in the lives of at-risk youth.

Ron Jackson Youth Work To Beautify The School

This past summer, Lone Star High School West at Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex worked to beautify the atrium in the center of the school. Students, along with teachers and JCO's, painted concrete benches in a variety of colors and designs.

During the Fall 2016 semester, the school decided to continue the beautification by building a picnic table in one of the woodshop classes and planting flowers. In addition, the decision was made to finish the benches by holding a competition. The students were asked to create a design for a bench that fit the theme of "Believe in yourself, achieve your goals, be a success." Staff then selected four benches that best fit the theme. The atrium is currently used for staff and student events, as well as for some class activities. The upgrades to the benches give students ownership and pride in their school.







Upcoming TJJD Sponsored or Co-Sponsored Trainings

30th Annual Juvenile Law Conference

February 27-March 1, 2017 Horseshoe Bay - Marble Falls, TX Click here for brochure or click here to register

IPO Basic

April 23-28, 2017 (40 Hours)
Sam Houston State - Huntsville, TX
Click here for additional details or to register

Foundation Skill for Trainers

May 1-5, 2017 (40 Hours)
Sam Houston State - Huntsville, TX
Click here for additional details or to register

Post-Legislative Conference

July 31- August 1, 2017 (Hours TBD)
Omni Southpark Hotel - Austin, TX
Conference, Hotel, and Registration
Information will be available in Late April

Budget Workshop

August 2, 2017 (Hours TBD)
Horseshoe Bay - Marble Falls, TX
Omni Southpark Hotel - Austin, TX
Conference, Hotel, and Registration
Information will be available in Late April

Upcoming TJJD Sponsored Webinars

They Want it All Right Now! Millennial Myths and the Strategies you need to Engage Them January 24, 2017 (2.00 Hours)
Texas Juvenile Justice Department - Austin, TX
Click here to register

Employees Receiving Tenure Awards

TIID would like to recognize the following employees who have received a tenure award since September 2016. On behalf of the agency, we extend our sincerest gratitude and appreciation for their dedication and service to the State of Texas.

September 2016

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Lisa M. Ellison McLennan RTC Sidney A. Cavanaugh Ron Jackson

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Brigido Maldonado Evins Charlotte E. Artlev Gainesville Iames W. Bateman Gainesville Robert E. French Giddings Donna I. Allen McLennan CSICF

McLennan RTC Jesse M. Watkins Audra Gude McLennan RTC

Terry L. Thomas Ron Jackson

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Steven J. Reaves Austin-Office of Inspector General

Keith A. Long Gainesville George J. Gould Gainesville

Cora H. Bennett McLennan CSICF Ruby L. Shaw McLennan CSICF Violet A. Scott McLennan Phoenix

Joseph D. Young Ron lackson

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Sonva D. Gullev McLennan RTC Dan E. King Ron Jackson O&A

THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

William A. Walk Austin-Business Ops

& Contracts

October 2016

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Jamyen J. Robinson-Hall Austin-Office of

Internal Audit

Heidi L. Hess McFadden Ranch Eunice C. Robertson McLennan CSICF Theresa A. Montgomery McLennan CSICF

Nicole L. Weatherspoon-Hoo OIG Field

Efrain Garcia Region 3 South

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Jocelyn R. Lewis Austin-Research &

Planning

Lucinda Garcia Evins Edelmira Balderas Evins Carolyn N. Reed Giddings

McLennan CSICF Annie O. Girard Mary S. Baller McLennan Phoenix Doris M. Lee McLennan RTC Tatania M. Hooks McLennan RTC

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Clayton K. Heald Austin-IT

Governance

Lori D. Harris Austin-Release

Review Panel Avres HWH

Ricardo R. Vela Rodnev W. Dean Brownwood HWH

Curtis T. Truesdale Giddinas

McLennan CSICF Troy L. Brown

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Kristy M. Almager Austin-IITA Suzanne Peschke *Giddings* Marilyn J. Francis **Giddings**

Yuekore D. Grayson Willoughby HWH

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Belinda Lanfranco Evins

THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Donnie F. Weakly OIG Field

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Ricardo Leal Region 3 South

Employees Receiving Tenure Awards (con't)

November 2016

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Kathryn R. Gray

Austin-Office of

General Counsel

Justin D. Adams Austin-

Administrative

Investigations

Samuel L. Matos Evins
Benjamin Moreno Evins
Pete A. Calvert Giddings

Frederick B. Henderson McLennan CSJCF

Frederick B. Henderson Ron Jackson

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Daniel R. Siam Evins

Austin E. Brei Gainesville

Ginger M. Santos *McLennan RTC*Pamela D. Whorton-Taylor *McLennan RTC*

Angelica A. Juarez Ron Jackson O&A

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Kenneth I. Ming Austin-Business Ops

& Contracts

Ronald N. Saunders Gainesville

Michael A. Banks McLennan Phoenix

Clifton J. Clemons Ron Jackson Joe B. Majors Ron Jackson

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Tracy A. Cunningham Austin-Human

Resources

Xiomara A. Navarro

Susan C. Campbell

Leander D. Tyree

Ernesto M. Garcia

McLennan CSJCF

McLennan RTC

Ron Jackson

Ron Jackson

Angel M. Dieterich Ron Jackson O&A
Gaila J. Patrick Willoughby HWH

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Rhonda L. Roberson Gainesville

THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Gloria Winkfield Giddings

Birdia C. Johnson McFadden Ranch

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Sylvia Perez Austin-Fiscal Affairs

& Budget

Olivia O. Gamez Austin-Placement

Services

Francisco Elizondo OIG Field

